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# SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA



Sometimes I think that those we've lost,  
Safe lying on th' Eternal Breast,  
Can hear no sounds from earth that mar  
The perfect sweetness of their rest;  
But when one thought of holy love  
Is stirr'd in hearts they love below  
Through some fine waves of ambient air,  
They feel, they see it, and they know.

DUKE OF ARGYLL

*by*

ALEXANDER GORDON, JR.





1910098

CS      Gordon, Alexander, 1878-1959.  
71      Some colonial families of Virginia. [Baltimore,  
.G66      1939]  
1939      29 p.      23 $\frac{1}{2}$  cm.

48186

1.Gordon fam. 2.Fitz Hugh fam. 3.Knox fam.  
4.Armistead fam. 5.McKim fam.

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## FOREWORD

The story and description of the lives and accomplishments of the members of the families contained herein have been collected and put together by me from old letters, from old newspaper cuttings, contained in family scrap-books, and from inscriptions in burial grounds in Scotland and Virginia and from other sources I believe to be reliable and authentic. This is a brief record of my ancestors and of their children from whom I descend in direct descent. I have not put in any of the collateral branches of these families as I am writing this merely as a record for my son, Alexander Gordon, III to whom I dedicate this little family history, with the hope that it may be of some interest to him in the years to come.

ALEXANDER GORDON, JR.

Baltimore, April 17th, 1939.



THE GROUND WATER OF SEATTLE  
WASHINGTON

## THE GORDON FAMILY OF SCOTLAND, VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

Historians say that the progenitor of the Gordon family in Scotland was Sir Adam de Gordon who came into Scotland from Normandy during the reign of David I of Scotland (1124-1153) and from whom he received large grants of land. The Gordon family of Virginia derive their descent from Sir William de Gordon, second son of Sir Adam de Gordon, who received from his father the barony of Stichell and Glenbens in Kirkcudbright comprising Kenmuir, Lochinvar and Galloway.

Sir John Gordon, Laird of Lochinvar was elevated to the peerage with the title of Viscount Kenmuir and Lochinvar—by Charles I in 1633 and from him descend the Gordons of Virginia and Maryland.

Southwestern Scotland lying between the river Nith and the Irish Channel is known as Galloway. This was the early home of the Gordons of Scotland. Mr. J. M. Sloan in his well known book "Galloway" writes this of the Galwegians.

"In the van of the Scottish army were the Galwegians in the War of Independence, in the Douglas feuds, down to the battle of Flodden in 1513. On Flodden's field of woe for Scotland they fought with all their characteristic valour and fearless dash, reckless of wounds and with a contempt for death. Among the flower of the Scottish chivalry that fell at Flodden there were numerous Galloway lairds and their feudal retainers, the men who, in the battle of Sanchie had earned the reputation of 'the fierce Galwegians'. Among those who fell at Flodden was Sir Alexander







## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Gordon of Lochinvar—the ‘young Lochinvar’ of Lady Heron’s song in Marmion, Sir Alexander Stewart of Garlies, from whom the earls of Galloway are descended; and Macdowalls, McCullochs, Adairs and Maclellans.”

Foremost in that holocaust which stupidity wrung from patriotism at Flodden, were the men of Galloway, when, as Scott described the carnage in “Marmion”:—

Day dawned upon the mountain’s side:—

There, Scotland! lay thy bravest pride,

Chiefs, Knights, and nobles, many a one:

The sad survivors all are gone.

The first of the Gordon family of whom we have authentic record is Samuel Gordon, who was born in 1656. He married Miss Margaret McKinnell and they lived at “Stockerton” in the parish of Kirkeudbright in Scotland, where he died on April 15th, 1732 at the age of seventy-six. His circumstances were comfortable and he was related to the families of Lord Kenmuir and the Gordons of Earlston and Greenlaw.

His son, John Gordon, married Miss Grace Newall and died on August 23rd, 1738, aged fifty-six years.

Samuel Gordon the first of “Lochdougan”, son of John, was born in 1722 and married on June 1st, 1748, Miss Nicholas Brown, the daughter of John Brown of Cragen Collie. He died on February 22nd, 1799, and she died on November 18th, 1795, aged seventy-one years.

Samuel Gordon and his wife, Nicholas Brown Gordon had a large family. Their eldest son John, at his father’s death, inherited “Lochdougan”. Two younger sons, Samuel and Basil, and their nephew, Samuel Gordon, Jr., the son of John, Laird of “Lochdougan”, came from Scot-

Division of Labor—The year 1800 is a date of great importance in the history of the United States. It is the year when the United States was admitted into the Union as a free and independent nation.

It is important to note that the United States was not a free and independent nation at the time of its admission into the Union. It was a colony of Great Britain.

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land to Virginia and settled at Falmouth in 1783. They all three married sisters, the daughters of William Knox, Esquire of "Windsor Lodge," Culpepper County, Virginia, whose wife was Susannah Stuart Fitz Hugh, a great granddaughter of Colonel William Fitz Hugh, who came to Virginia from Bedford, England in 1670.

Mr. Knox himself belonged to a branch of the family from which sprang John Knox, the renowned Scottish reformer.

Samuel Gordon and his brother Basil were men of marked financial ability. Soon after settling in Falmouth, at the time that England was engaged in war with Spain, they saw their opportunity and they began exporting large quantities of tobacco, which could be procured from the neighboring plantations along the Rappahannock at a small price and sold in England for a large profit, and thus they laid the foundation while still young men for unusually large fortunes for those times.

Samuel Gordon, the elder of the two brothers and my great grandfather, married in 1798 Miss Susannah Fitz Hugh Knox. He acquired "Kenmore" near Fredericksburg, Virginia, the former estate of Fielding Lewis, the brother-in-law of General Washington. Samuel Gordon died there on January 16th, 1843, at the age of eighty-four and his wife died in Baltimore in 1869, aged ninety-four years.

Samuel Gordon and his wife had six sons and three daughters. Their fifth son, Alexander B. Gordon was my grandfather. He was a graduate of Yale, in the Class of 1833, and was a well known member of the Baltimore Bar. He was married in 1840 to Miss Margaret McKim, the only daughter of\*Mr. and Mrs. William Duncan McKim of





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Baltimore. He built the handsome residence at 604 Cathedral Street in which my father, Alexander Gordon, was born in 1844. His wife died when my father was born and my grandfather died in 1861 at "Kenmore," and is buried there in the family graveyard beside his father and mother.

"Kenmore" is said to have been built in 1749 by Colonel Fielding Lewis for his bride, Betty Washington, the sister of General George Washington. The house is one of the best examples of Colonial architecture in existence and is remarkably beautiful. Samuel Gordon acquired it in 1816 and it was sold by his sons in 1864.

The construction of "Kenmore" began in 1752 on the land that had been surveyed and plotted by Washington. He was the engineer that saw the design carried out. The ceiling decorations he conceived, the mantels he designed. From Trenton he brought Hessian prisoners to mould the ceilings and while he was away upon a campaign Betty wrote him that the work he had designed was completed. In his tent that night, by candlelight, he sketched the allegory of the fox and the crow, designed for the children of his beloved sister.

In 1922, Fredericksburg was startled and shocked by the news that the owner of "Kenmore" at that time intended to tear down the old house, destroying the oaks planted by Washington, and sell the estate for building lots.

Thereupon, the Daughters of the American Revolution formed the "Kenmore Association" to endeavor to save the old house. The owner of the property offered to sell it for \$30,000, and the Association was given a short time in which to make an initial payment of \$10,000. They succeeded in doing this and came into the possession of the property about a year later.





So "Kenmore" is now open to the public and dedicated as a shrine of love and devotion to the memory of Washington and the many happy days he passed at "Kenmore" with his sister and her husband, Colonel Fielding Lewis.

In front of "Kenmore" and about 300 yards away stands the monument marking the grave of Mary Washington and behind this monument is the old burial ground of the Gordon family of "Kenmore".

In 1913, I visited Scotland for the first time with my parents. We went to the Town of Kirkcudbright by train from London, changing coaches three times after reaching the border of Scotland. We stayed at the little hotel in Kirkcudbright and though there were only pitchers of water and hand basins in our rooms they were beautifully clean and the food was extremely good. I remember Bass' Ale cost three pence a bottle at that time. We visited the old graveyard in the town adjoining the Church where our ancestors were buried and I copied the following inscriptions from the graveyard in Kirkcudbright, Scotland:

To the memory of Nicholas Brown, spouse to Samuel Gordon of Lochdougan who died 18th November 1795, aged 71 years. Also the said Samuel Gordon who died 22nd February 1799 in the 77th year of his age.

Basil Gordon son to John Gordon of Lochdougan died 24th April, 1803, aged 17 years.

Also the said John Gordon of Lochdougan who died February 22nd, 1812, aged 59 years.

Also William Gordon fourth son of the said John Gordon who died at St. Louis, North America 21st March, 1823 aged 29 years.





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Marion Brown, relict of the late John Gordon of Lochdougan who died at Gatehouse 5th June 1837 aged 80 years. Their third son John died at Falmouth, Virginia 10th December, 1826, aged 35.

Also Alexander their fifth son died at Fredericksburg, Virginia 19th of March, 1832 aged 34 years.

Also their daughter Margaret who died at Edinburg 18th of May 1853.

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In memory of Alexander Gordon son of John Gordon of Lochdougan who died 20th July 1819 aged 63 and of Anna Susan Gordon his daughter and wife of Charles James Findlayson, who died 17th February 1839 aged 32.



## THE FITZ HUGH AND KNOX FAMILIES

Colonel William Fitz Hugh, the first of his family in America, was born in Bedford, England, in January 1651. He came to Virginia in 1670, and died there on his country estate, "Bedford" in October 1701. He married Sarah Tucker, whose father, John Tucker, was born in London, England, and died in Virginia in 1671.

Colonel Fitz Hugh was Lieutenant Colonel, Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1683 and a member of the House of Burgesses from 1678 to 1687. He was Colonel of the Stafford County Forces in 1690.

His son, Captain Henry Fitz Hugh (1687-1758) was also a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1736 to 1740.

Miss Susannah Stuart Fitz Hugh, a great granddaughter of Colonel William Fitz Hugh married William Knox of "Windsor Lodge", Virginia in 1767.

William Knox himself was born in Renfrew, Scotland, and came to America as a young man with sufficient means to purchase an estate, or plantation, in Culpeper County, Virginia, to which he gave the name of "Windsor Lodge". He was the son of William Knox of Renfrew, Scotland, who married Miss Janet Somerville of Jedburgh, Scotland, whose ancestors had been ennobled in the fifteenth century.

Their son, William Knox, married, as I have stated above, Miss Susannah Stuart Fitz Hugh. She was one of the most learned women of her time; she had been educated with her brother by an English tutor, for whom her father had sent to England, and with him she pursued what would





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

be called in this day a collegiate course. This proved of such value to her that she was enabled afterwards to instruct her own children in many subjects. After the death of her husband, William Knox, she retired to "Belmont", her ancestral home, on the banks of the Rappahannock, where she could be near her children, as they were settled in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg.

With her my grandmother, Agnes Campbell Gordon, when a mere child, read Milton's "Paradise Lost", the "Spectator" and many fables and allegories, and the afternoons spent at "Belmont" seated at the stately old lady's feet, were always a great delight to her.

Mrs. Susannah Fitz Hugh Knox lead an active life until her death, which occurred at the age of seventy-three. She is buried in the old Falmouth Cemetery in Virginia on a hill overlooking "Belmont." Her daughter, Susannah Fitz Hugh Knox, married my great grandfather, Samuel Gordon, in 1798. I quote here from a letter dated December 4th, 1878:

"Our grandfather, William Knox of "Windsor Lodge", Culpeper, was a great reader of Latin, as well as English books, and had a fine collection of theological, historical, Belles Lettres and old time plays and novels. Our grandmother, Susanna Fitzhugh, was also a great reader—of Shakespeare and Homer, and everything ancient and modern, as long as she lived. Her education was wonderful for the time. She taught her six daughters entirely herself, except in dancing—and for that accomplishment a Mrs. Miller, who taught in some nobleman's family, was imported from England. Our grandmother also taught her three sons Latin, until they were sent to a boarding school. Our grandfather was something of a musician. He played delightfully on the German flute, and sang Scotch songs by the score. He taught his three elder daughters the rudiments of music and they played well on the Spanish guitar."



the subject of the day a celebrated writer. The present of such a work to the Emperor was a valuable service to history. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical.

When a man could read, he was a man. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical. The Emperor's interest in the subject was not only of the highest order, but it was also of the most practical.

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## THE FITZ HUGH AND KNOX FAMILIES

I shall now introduce here several letters that are still preserved in our family, to illustrate the life of our ancestors at Windsor in those days.

From my great, great grandmother, Mrs. Susannah Fitz Hugh Knox, to her husband:

“What do you tell me, my dear Mr. Knox! of not coming home till next Monday or Tuesday? You surely have no Idea of my being entirely alone (or you would not delay coming so long). Yet so it is: I have not seen the Face of a white Person since last Sunday morning; it seems as if I lived in an uninhabited desert, which I am not sensible of when you are with me.

‘For with you conversing I forget all time,

All seasons and their change—all please alike,’  
but I find it very different in your absence. I have tried every art to pass the time away since last Sunday, reading, working, walking, have been alternately tried, and I was just congratulating myself that my Solitude was at an end, when I got your Letter, which has blasted my hopes in an instant, and thrown me back to my old employment, counting the minutes; the only way I have to support myself now is that I expect my Mama will make amends by staying with us six weeks at least.

“You say (concerning politics) His most Christian Majesty’s Fleet has been driven off the Coast by the English. I *shall believe my share of that* and make no doubt but what we shall hear of their *drubbing the English* by the next *Post*.

“If my Brother wants to see me as much as I do him he will not let the Brick burning hinder him from coming up. I long to hear an account of his late Peregrinations, and whether he came across a Dulcinea to his mind or not. Farewell, my dear Will.

“Believe me to be with the truest love,

Yours only,

Susanna Knox.

Windsor, September 3, 1778.





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

From Miss Helen G. Stuart to her friend Miss Susanna Fitz Hugh Knox, who very shortly afterwards married my great grandfather, Samuel Gordon:

“Spring Hill, Mar. 7th, 1798

“I have taken up my pen to apologize to my dear Susan for not writing to her by Coz. Dick; the reason was just this: he was so anxious to see you that he swam the runs while I was waiting for them to fall that I might send my letter to him. This said love is a very surprising thing, it makes a man go through so many difficulties, for when they first set out on a courting expedition, they can hardly have a glimmering hope of obtaining the beloved object. Indeed, my dear, their case is more pitiable than the female sex generally consider. I think a girl ought to have more compassion on those who travel in cold weather and over bad roads. I am afraid you'll suppose from what I have said that I have felt that passion. I was only thinking of Coz. Dick, who possesses more perseverance than is common for Lovers in the present days. Mr. Roberts mentioned the other day (by what means he heard I can't say, for I can get nothing from Cousin Dick) that you had determined never to be married. I think a man must possess very little eloquence if he can't persuade you out of that idea. From my acquaintance with the world I think a married state the happiest when hearts as well as hands are united. One or two instances of bad Husbands are not sufficient to make a person determined to live single all their lives. Was I a lover of my dear Susan's and that her only objection, I should not despair of making her think differently. Report says that Miss Eliza Alexander is a-going to be married. I hope if it is the case that we shall have a wedding. It has been long talked of that she and Col. Lee were to make a match of it; this neighborhood has been particularly dull for some time. I never spent a more solitary winter. From what I can learn you have been engaged in a round of gaiety. I think, my dear, had I been in your situation I should not have stood on Ceremony in writing you an account of my travels.





## THE FITZ HUGH AND KNOX FAMILIES

“Adieu, my dear girl, my love to your papa and mama and family. And believe me with every sentiment of affection,

Your friend,

Helen G. Stuart

Copy of letter written by my great grandmother, Susanna Fitz Hugh Gordon, to her children in 1867, when she was ninety-four years of age:

My Dear Children: Feeling that my pilgrimage is drawing to a close, I wish to say a few last words to you, who have been the joy of my heart and the apple of my eye. The separation will be felt, no doubt very painfully for a time, but when you consider at what an advanced age, I have arrived and how happy you have rendered that long life by your uniform good conduct and dutiful affection to me, your sorrow will be of short duration, you will have no pangs of compunction at the recollection of any neglected duty or unkindness to me to reproach yourselves with, for I can say with truth, that your debt of gratitude to me as a fond and too anxious Mother has been cancelled long ago. My heart is lifted up with joy and gratitude to the Giver of all good, for having bestowed on me his unworthy servant such a family. With regard to you I have nothing left to ask for you except that you may be taught of God to find the straight and narrow way to a blessed Eternity where there will be no more sin, no more sorrow, no more painful separations, and where I hope through the mercy of the Savior alone, to meet you all. I shall leave behind me a large united family, and Oh my children may you ever continue so, as I am persuaded there is neither virtue or happiness without brotherly love. It is my anxious and earnest injunction that you will avoid every thing that might in the slightest degree create a coolness amongst you. The Savior's last command to his disciples was to Love one another, and my last prayer to God will be that you may be enabled to follow that divine precept throughout your lives. In searching out the sins of my heart, I do not find that partiality to any one of my children is in the catalogue feeling thus it would be very agreeable to me to divide





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

my small property amongst you, but having but little, I hope you will think as I do it is my duty to bequeath that little, as you will find, in the enclosed will. And now my dear children I will bid you a long and last farewell praying that the Almighty will guide you safely through this world and in his own good time give you a happy entrance into that blest abode where all tears will be wiped away.

Farewell—farewell

Susan F. Gordon

Copy of a letter in my possession written by my grandmother, Agnes Campbell Gordon, to her future mother-in-law, Mrs. George Armistead:

“Kenmore, December 17th, 1840.

“Although I feel great diffidence, my dear Madam, in replying to your highly esteemed letter, yet the fear you should think me wanting in respect, or affection, constrains me to use my best endeavors to express the pleasure it gave me.

“I am happy to think that you are already prepared to receive me cordially, and view me with partiality, and hope when you know me better you will be as willing to surrender to me that which I so ardently desire to retain, “the first place in *his* affections.”

“The only charm I can bring with me is the sincere wish to render myself acceptable, and congenial to all those who have expressed so much affection for me, and should I fail of this desire or not adapt myself fully to you all, you will then, I trust, excuse and extend towards me those kind admonitions that you would to your own children, which I can assure you shall never pass unregarded by me. My Father and Mother and sisters join me in sentiments of affection to you, and believe me with great respect.

Yours sincerely,

Agnes C. Gordon

Mrs. Armistead.



## STUART FAMILY OF SCOTLAND AND VIRGINIA

The Reverend David Stuart, of Inverness, Scotland, a member of the Church of England, is said to have been a descendant of James Stuart, Earl of Moray, half brother of Mary, Queen of Scots.

The Reverend David Stuart took part in the Stuart uprising of 1715, to put the pretender on the throne, and he afterwards fled to Virginia and became a minister of the Church of England there.

He married Miss Jane Gibbons, a daughter of the then British Governor of Barbadoes, Sir John Gibbons. Their daughter, Sarah Stuart, was married on June 19th, 1750, to Thomas Fitz Hugh of "Boscobel", Virginia.



## STUART FAMILY OF SCOTLAND 1811-1812

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## THE ARMISTEAD FAMILY

The first of this family of whom there is official record was Anthony Armistead of Kirk Deighton, Yorkshire, England. Kirk Deighton is in the west riding of Yorkshire, two miles from Wetherby and five and a half miles from Knaresbrough. Anthony Armistead married Miss Frances Thompson in 1608, and on August 3rd, 1610 their son William was baptized in All Saints' Church, Kirk Deighton, Yorkshire, England. In 1635 this William Armistead emigrated to Virginia, where he had large grants of land in Elizabeth City County and afterwards in Gloucester. He died in 1659. His son, John Armistead, afterwards called "The Councillor" was born in 1635. He was Sheriff of Gloucester County in 1675, member of the House of Burgesses in 1685 and appointed to the Council in 1687. In 1680, John Armistead was Lieutenant-colonel of Horse in Gloucester County and also one of the justices of that county. He married Judith Robinson and died in 1698. The Councillors were the most important officers in Colonial Virginia.

John Armistead and his wife Judith had four children, Judith, Elizabeth, William and Henry (my ancestor).

Judith married Robert Carter of "Corotoman", in Lancaster County, Virginia, in 1688. He was known as "King Carter" on account of his great wealth, social position and influence in the colony. He died possessed of 300,000 acres of land, 1,000 slaves and 10,000 sterling.

Elizabeth Armistead married Ralph Wormeley of "Rosegill," called the greatest man in the colony.

These daughters of John Armistead must have had great beauty and attraction or rare qualities of mind and





## THE ARMISTEAD FAMILY

character to have attracted the two most conspicuous men of their times in the colony. Governor Henry A. Wise, in his "Seven decades of the Union", writes this of the women of the Armistead family: "The daughters of this family have been strikingly remarkable for their strength of character and beauty of person; and the continuous line of male descendants has marked the name of hero after hero on the tablets of their country's history."

"Colonel George Armistead, defender of Fort McHenry in Baltimore against the British fleet in 1814; his brother, Addison Bowles Armistead killed in 1813 while engaged in the defense of Savannah; another brother, Lewis Gustavus Adolphos Armistead, captain of riflemen, was killed on September 17, 1814, in a sortie from Fort Erie, Canada, during the second war with Great Britain."

"General Lewis Addison Armistead was killed at Gettysburg leading the famous charge of Pickett's Division."

"General Robert E. Lee, through his ancestress, great, great grandmother, Judith Armistead and President John Tyler, through his mother, Mary Armistead, sprang from the same family tree. One of the prevailing causes of the greatness of the men of that period was the lovely and noble character of their mothers."

My ancestor, Henry Armistead (1670-1739) married Miss Martha Burwell in 1703. She was the daughter of Colonel the Honorable Lewis Burwell (1648-1710) who was commander of the Hundreds and a member of the Council of Virginia in 1702.

Their son, William Armistead, married Miss Mary Bowles in December, 1738. She was the daughter of James





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Bowles, one of the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietors' Council of Maryland, and a granddaughter of Tobias Bowles, an eminent merchant of London, England, in the Virginia trade.

James Bowles, the father of Mary Bowles Armistead, married Miss Rebecca Addison, whose mother before her marriage to Colonel Thomas Addison, was Miss Elizabeth Tasker, the daughter of Captain Thomas Tasker, who died in 1700. He was a Justice of Calvert County in 1685, a Burgess 1691-97, a member of the Council 1698-1700, and Treasurer of Maryland in 1695.

John Armistead, the son of William Armistead and Mary Bowles Armistead, married Miss Lucy Baylor on March 17th, 1764. She was a daughter of Colonel John Baylor II (1725-1795) who was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses for Caroline County from 1740 to 1760.

"Newmarket", the historic old estate of the Baylor family, in Caroline County, Virginia, is one of the few in this country that has remained continuously in the possession of the same family through many successive generations, going always to the eldest son of the family.

It was originally granted to the first of the Baylor family who came to Virginia by King George I.

Colonel George Baylor, of the Revolution, aide-de-camp of General Washington at Trenton, was born at "Newmarket", and so was his nephew, Colonel George Armistead, whose defense of Fort McHenry inspired the National Anthem of the Republic, "The Star Spangled Banner."







## THE ARMISTEAD FAMILY

George Armistead, hero of Fort McHenry, the son of John Armistead and Lucy Baylor Armistead, was born at "Newmarket", the old estate of his mother's family in Caroline County, Virginia, on April 10th, 1780. He died in Baltimore on April 25th, 1818.

He was appointed Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army, on January 8th, 1799; Captain, November 1st, 1806; Major, Third Artillery, March 3rd, 1813; was distinguished at the capture of Fort George, Upper Canada, on May 18th, 1813, and was brevetted Lieutenant-colonel for his defense of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, on September 12th, 1814.

He married on October 26th, 1810, Miss Louisa Hughes, a sister of Christopher Hughes, Jr., Baltimore, U. S. Charge d' Affairs in Denmark, Norway and Sweden for many years.

In a clipping from the Baltimore Sun, Miss Keys writes:

"I wonder how many of the descendants of the 'Old Defenders' who have just celebrated the 12th of September remember the names of the heroes who made that day an epoch in the history of our people?"

"Let us pause to do honor to Major George Armistead, who on that day (September 14, 1814) saved our flag and so bravely and nobly held the fort against the British bombardment. He was the only man in the fort who knew that the powder magazine was not bombproof and that any moment should a shell strike it a horrible death awaited them all. But, thank God, a shell did not reach it, and Major Armistead, by so gallantly holding the fort, not only won for himself a glorious record, but historians tell





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

us saved the entire Atlantic seaboard from British invasion."

The two letters copied below were written by my great grandfather, Colonel George Armistead, to his wife while he was in command of Fort McHenry. The first letter was written before the attack on the fort by the British fleet, and the second was written a few days after the British attack had been repulsed.

"Fort McHenry, 10th Sept. 1814.

"My dear Louisa's letters of the 7th have just arrived. I am really sorry to find you so dissatisfied. I wish to God you had not been compelled to leave Baltimore but you now must be contented as it is impossible for you in present situation to attempt a return. Your dear mother is better and recovering as fast as possible.

"The British have left the Patuxent and are now at another point. We cannot correctly ascertain what their intentions are but should they depart from the Bay I will be with you immediately so be not alarmed if I should pop in on you.

" I am perfectly well \* \* \*

I am truly sorry to find that my dear Mary does not get better and I am delighted to hear that our dear Mary is well. Has she fattened any—make her frequently talk of me. Present my respects to Mrs. Stewart, tell her the old gentleman is tottering to me at this moment he is quite well and advises your remaining where you are. Your father, Peggy and George are all well. I am to dine with your father today and will not seal this until after dinner.

"Saturday morning—Your mother was much better yesterday and recovering fast. I dreamt last night you had presented me with a fine son. God grant it may be so and all well. I am confident if you do not fret that you will have a fine time. The British are now at the mouth of the Potomac. Mr. B. died in





## THE ARMISTEAD FAMILY

the night—got up and got his sword and ran it through his body. His friends say it was done in a dream. Kiss my dear Mary Anne, love to Mary, Mrs Stewart and Isabel. God protect you my dear wife.

Geo. Armistead."

"Baltimore, September 22nd, 1814.

"My dear wife:

"Peggy has written you all that I can tell you, only that I am waiting on her husband in place of his waiting on me. He is limping about the house grunting and I am tightening for something to eat.

"Lomax has been to see me and made me laugh until I thought I should expire, the poor fellow is in very bad health and is on his way to Virginia. R. has returned and just reported himself. I have ordered him to the fort on duty.

"We have just dined and I have smacked my chops over a brace of blue wings. This is all talk my dear Louisa. I want to see you and my dear babies which will I am in hopes be soon. I shall visit the fort this evening but will not remain there. I am pestered out of my life with visitors—few I see. The President promptly sent my promotion with a very handsome compliment. So you see my dear wife all is well, at least your husband has got a name and standing that nothing but divine providence could have given him, and I pray to our heavenly Father that we may long live to enjoy. It is now for you to exert yourself, do not fret, return thanks to your God that you have me. We must soon all meet and talk the war over. I do declare to you that I am not in the least disappointed in the little stranger. The old man says they are the best and I think so too. Delighted all is tranquil in town.

"God bless you my dear wife is the prayer of your affectionate husband,

Geo. Armistead."





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

For his successful defense of Fort McHenry and for his defeat of the British fleet, Major Armistead was promoted to the rank of Colonel by President Madison, a few days after the bombardment.

The City of Baltimore ordered Rembrandt Peale to paint his portrait for the city. This portrait is now in the Peale Museum in Baltimore.

Colonel Armistead's native state, Virginia, presented him with a beautifully engraved steel sword in a gold scabbard.

Colonel Armistead continued to command Fort McHenry until his death there on April 25th, 1818, just two weeks after his thirty-eighth birthday. His military funeral in Baltimore was the largest and the most memorable in the history of the city up to that time. He is buried in a vault of his father-in-law, Christopher Hughes, in old St. Paul's graveyard on Fremont Avenue between Lombard and Redwood Streets in Baltimore, and General Lewis Addison Armistead who was killed while leading Pickett's famous charge at Gettysburg is buried beside him in this same vault.

On the 11th of May, 1816, John Eager Howard, Thomas Tennant, Isaac McKim and Robert Gilmor, Jr., a committee appointed by the citizens of Baltimore, proceeded to Fort McHenry and presented to Colonel Armistead a superb silver punchbowl, representing one of the largest bombshells thrown into the fort by the British. The vase was accompanied by twelve silver cups and a ladle, the latter in the form of a shrapnel shell, and the whole placed on a very beautiful silver waiter. The body of the vase rests upon four eagles with outspread wings. Upon one side is an engraving surrounded by military trophies.





representing the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Upon the other side is the following inscription:

“Presented by a number of the citizens of Baltimore to Lieutenant-Colonel George Armistead for his gallant and successful defense of Fort McHenry during the bombardment by a large British force on the 12th and 13th of September, 1814, when upward of 1500 shells were thrown, 400 of which fell within the fort, and some of them within the diameter of this vase.”

This silver service was presented to our National museum in Washington in 1921, by descendants of Colonel Armistead and is now on exhibition there.

The gallant defense of Fort McHenry by Colonel Armistead is made more conspicuous from the fact that he alone knew that the magazine was not bomb-proof when the foe approached. He dared not reveal this fact for fear his men would refuse to remain in the fort, and so with these enormous chances against him he faithfully sustained that siege and won a victory and a name. This sense of responsibility and the great tax upon his nervous system during the bombardment left him with a disease of the heart, from which he died three and a half years later.

After Colonel Armistead had repulsed the enemy from Fort McHenry, Commodore John Rodgers sent him the following expressive note:

“Colonel Armistead: I congratulate you and a country that owes you much. The enemy is off and the devil go with him. General Ross is said to be mortally wounded.

Yours truly,  
John Rodgers”





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

The following article is from the Baltimore Sun of September 12th: 1894.

"Under resolutions approved March 4, 1827, and February 4, 1828, the Mayor and City Council erected a monument to Colonel Armistead in the old City Spring, on Calvert Street, where the City Hospital now stands.

"This monument was about eight feet high and stood in a niche of the keeper's house. It consisted of a square column of Egyptian marble, with a projecting cornice, and was decorated with military emblems, two cannons as supports and a flaming shell on top.

"During the civil war the spring lot and building became dilapidated, and repairs were ordered under a resolution of the City Council passed in 1863. When these repairs were finished the monument had disappeared. Years rolled on and then somebody inquired what had become of the Armistead monument. Its disappearance remained unsolved until 1881, when *The Sun* of March 3 published the story of its disappearance.

"The monument was broken when the repairs were made, during the war, and the remaining pieces had been taken to the marble-yard of Mr. John W. Maxwell, on Calvert street, near Franklin street, who had made the repairs. Employees of Mr. Maxwell stated that the die-block was sawed up and used as the base of a tombstone in one of the city cemeteries. Small pieces of the monument were thrown in a gutter near the marble-yard, and some pieces were still at Mr. Maxwell's yard in 1881.

"Meanwhile a movement was started for a new monument to Colonel Armistead, which was unveiled September 12, 1882, in Eutaw Place. A resolution of the Mayor and City Council, adopted in 1886, authorized the removal of this monument to Federal Hill, and it now stands at the northeast corner of that height, overlooking city and river.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of the President of the University of Chicago for the year 1900-1901.

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## THE ARMISTEAD FAMILY

"The new monument is of white marble, 14 feet high, and resembles somewhat the old monument which was destroyed. The cornice, capstone and flaming shell are all of the same design. The shaft of the monument bearing the inscriptions is square, being exposed on four sides, but corresponds to the upright slab of the old monument, which stood in a niche. A vertical stone cannon resting on its breech stands at each corner of the new monument, corresponding to the cannon which flanked the old monument."

On September 12th, 1914, one hundred years after the attack on Fort McHenry by the British fleet, an heroic bronze statue of Colonel Armistead was placed in position and unveiled in Fort McHenry. The statue was ordered by "The Star Spangled Banner" Centennial Commission and the Society of the War of 1812. Edward Berge of Baltimore was its sculptor.

The following poem was written and dedicated to Colonel Armistead by Miss Susanna Warfield immediately after the battle in September 1814, when the British attack was repulsed. It reads as follows:

"Hail, to the hero, our guardian and friend,  
Honor'd and bless'd may he ever be hail'd  
As victor possessing the skill to defend  
Who baffl'd the foe when proudly assail'd.  
Ye patriots brave, who delight in true fame,  
Forever remember the warrior's name,  
Who nobly defended the banners that wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"To the shells bursting wide and cannon's loud roar,  
Our brave gallant Armistead was adamant rock;  
'Tho' vengeance propell'd by the sail and the oar,  
The thunders of Britain were to him no shock;

The first question is, "What is the purpose of the study?" The second question is, "What are the objectives of the study?" The third question is, "What are the methods of the study?" The fourth question is, "What are the results of the study?" The fifth question is, "What are the conclusions of the study?" The sixth question is, "What are the implications of the study?" The seventh question is, "What are the limitations of the study?" The eighth question is, "What are the strengths of the study?" The ninth question is, "What are the weaknesses of the study?" The tenth question is, "What are the future directions of the study?"

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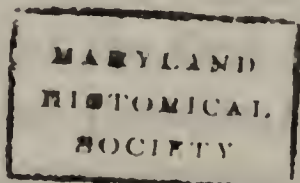
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That is the first question that should be asked. The second question is, "What are the objectives of the study?" The third question is, "What are the methods of the study?" The fourth question is, "What are the results of the study?" The fifth question is, "What are the conclusions of the study?" The sixth question is, "What are the implications of the study?" The seventh question is, "What are the limitations of the study?" The eighth question is, "What are the strengths of the study?" The ninth question is, "What are the weaknesses of the study?" The tenth question is, "What are the future directions of the study?"

SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Their midnight assault he with vigilance met,  
Oh! the gloom of that night we ne'er shall forget,  
And lovely the morn that beheld them retiring,  
For vanquished were Britons and Ross was expiring."

"Now gone is the foe whom with dread and with fear  
We saw proudly advancing with favoring tide,  
And what like our homes and our country so dear,  
We owe them to him, our protector and pride,  
Under him have our arm'd defied that proud foe,  
By him are we sav'd from pain and from woe,  
To him may the praise of posterity rise,  
And valor ne-er leave its abode in the skies."







## McKIM FAMILY

Sir Thomas McKim, of Londonderry, Ireland, who was knighted for his kindness to the poor of Londonderry, came to America and settled in Philadelphia in 1734. He afterwards moved to Brandywine, Delaware, where he was commissioned by the Governor of Delaware, Lieutenant of Militia in the Upper Regiment from Brandywine Hundred in 1756 and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, New Castle, Delaware in 1774. **1910098**

His son, John McKim, was born in 1742 in Brandywine, Delaware and came to Baltimore when a young man and established himself in a mercantile business on Baltimore Street.

Later he married Miss Margaret Duncan of Philadelphia and in 1777 he went to that city and engaged in business, but when his wife died in 1784, he returned again to Baltimore and became a shipping and importing merchant. In 1796 he took his sons into partnership with him and in 1801 he retired, with an ample fortune, and a few years later he removed to a country home on the York Road, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He was one of the founders and the first president of the Union Manufacturing Company, organized in 1808, which conducted one of the first cotton mills built in America. He was also the president of the Baltimore Water Company, that formerly supplied the city with water. He built and endowed the old McKim Free School building, still standing on Baltimore and Asquith Streets, for the education of poor boys. This school was opened in 1821





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

and was in successful operation for eight years before the first public schools were opened in Baltimore.

Miss Margaret McKim, a granddaughter of John McKim, married my grandfather, Alexander B. Gordon in 1840. The letter below is a copy of one in my possession written by my grandmother, Margaret McKim Gordon, while in Paris on her wedding journey, to her sister-in-law, Mrs. William McKim:

“Paris May 6th. 1840

“My Dear Sister Margaret,

“We arrived at Paris day before yesterday, and on going to the bankers yesterday Alexander found no less than ten letters for us. On opening them I need not tell you, how much our joy at receiving news from home, was damped on reading of your sister Georgiana’s death. The shock was the greater to us, from our not having heard before of her illness. I write this letter not to offer you any commonplace consolation, for I well know that time only can reconcile you to such a loss; but to assure you, My dear sister, of all our deepest sympathy with you in your bereavement. It must be some alleviation of your grief to think on the manner of her death, as our letters inform us, that she was sick for some time, and as our friends must be taken from us, we surely ought to be thankful to our heavenly father when he calls them in so gradual a way that they have time to prepare their minds for the change, and we to get accustomed to the idea of losing them. Perhaps I may have distressed you, my dear sister, by writing this letter, for by the time you receive it, your grief may have become softened, and this may revive your recollections of your first feelings, but I could not forbear from letting you know, that though so far off we knew of your loss, and sincerely felt for you.

“Our letters from Alexander’s family all beg of us by no means to come home after October, but we had no intention of

and was in numerous operations in which he distinguished himself.

After the death of George Washington in 1799, the nation was in a state of confusion. The people were divided into two parties, the Federalists and the Republicans. The Federalists were in power, but they were unpopular. The Republicans were in opposition, but they were popular. The country was in a state of civil war.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of struggle and progress. It is a story of the people who have built this nation, and of the challenges they have faced. It is a story of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. The history of the United States is a story of hope and faith. It is a story of the people who have believed in a better future, and who have fought for it. The history of the United States is a story of the power of the American dream. It is a story of the people who have dreamed of a better life, and who have worked hard to achieve it. The history of the United States is a story of the strength of the American people. It is a story of the people who have stood up to oppression, and who have fought for freedom. The history of the United States is a story of the courage of the American people. It is a story of the people who have faced danger, and who have overcome it. The history of the United States is a story of the resilience of the American people. It is a story of the people who have endured hardship, and who have emerged stronger. The history of the United States is a story of the unity of the American people. It is a story of the people who have come together, and who have built a great nation. The history of the United States is a story of the love of the American people. It is a story of the people who have cared for one another, and who have built a great nation. The history of the United States is a story of the faith of the American people. It is a story of the people who have believed in a better future, and who have fought for it. The history of the United States is a story of the hope of the American people. It is a story of the people who have dreamed of a better life, and who have worked hard to achieve it. The history of the United States is a story of the strength of the American people. It is a story of the people who have stood up to oppression, and who have fought for freedom. The history of the United States is a story of the courage of the American people. It is a story of the people who have faced danger, and who have overcome it. The history of the United States is a story of the resilience of the American people. It is a story of the people who have endured hardship, and who have emerged stronger. The history of the United States is a story of the unity of the American people. It is a story of the people who have come together, and who have built a great nation. The history of the United States is a story of the love of the American people. It is a story of the people who have cared for one another, and who have built a great nation. The history of the United States is a story of the faith of the American people. It is a story of the people who have believed in a better future, and who have fought for it.

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## MCKIM FAMILY

staying longer than the last of August. Mother wishes to return in a steamer, none however sails at the time we would like. We think about the first of September would be a good time to leave Europe, if we came in a steamer, as if we left earlier we would get home before the warm weather is over. Haslett writes that Aunt McKim said she would join us in London in May, if she could get an opportunity of crossing with any one. I wrote in my letter to William from Rome, that we thought we should arrive in Paris by May. I think it would have been more agreeable to Aunt McKim to have joined us here. She could then have seen Paris and gone up the Rhine as we purpose doing after having staid here about six weeks. We shall be obliged to stay here so long, as we did not see any of the Lions of Paris when we were here before, and we all have our summer clothes to get, and a few things for housekeeping etc. The weather is so warm that we can accomplish very little. There has not been any rain here for three months they say. It is so warm today that I cannot go out, very much the same kind of weather that we have when the warm weather first comes, but it debilitates so much at first. We posted from Geneva here in five days, and we were almost sufficated with dust. Ma stood it very well, and says she thinks we might have come in four days. Among the letters here was one from John. He says that he went down to Naples and heard there, that we had left for Rome; he then went to Rome and they told him we had gone North, he sailed for Genoa whence his letter is dated, & said he expected to be in Marseilles by the 1st May & should take a few little trips in the neighborhood & that if we could write before the 1st of May to direct to Marseilles, if not to Hottinguer. Hottinguer says that he wrote to him to direct no more letters to be sent to him so we expect him here every day. We are at present in the fifth or sixth story all the hotels being crowded, but tomorrow we shall get comfortably fixed. Give Ma's & my love to William & all & particularly to your family. Alexander desires to be remembered believe me

Your affectionate sister,

Margaret."





## SOME COLONIAL FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA

Four years from the date of this letter, my grandmother, Margaret McKim Gordon, died at her residence on Cathedral Street, in Baltimore, a few days after giving birth to my father. She was in her 26th year and was considered very lovely and attractive. She had two older children, my uncle, William McKim Gordon, who never married, and my aunt, Susan McKim Gordon who married Major John S. Hayes, of Richmond and they made their home in Baltimore, where he was engaged in business.

My father, the late Alexander Gordon, married his first cousin, Miss Agnes Gordon Armistead, in January 1877. My parents' residence was on Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, all during their married life. They had two children: I was the elder and my sister, Miss Margaret McKim Gordon, was their second child. I married, on June 27th, 1908, Mrs. Ferdinand C. Fischer, a widow, who before her first marriage was Miss Elizabeth Ringo of Kentucky. Our son, Alexander Gordon III was born on November 12th, 1909. He is a graduate of Yale University and a member of the Baltimore Bar. He married Miss Margaret D'Arcy Hilles, a daughter of Mrs. William S. Hilles, and she had lived all her life at her parents' villa in Cannes, France, until she came to Baltimore to make her debut in the Winter of 1933. They have two young daughters, Henrietta D'Arcy Gordon and Agnes Armistead Gordon.

This concludes the story of the lives and the best known deeds and accomplishments of my ancestors.

It seems to me that it should be a source of pride and satisfaction to everyone, no matter how successful their own individual lives may have been, to be able to reflect that their forebears did their part in the defense and upbuilding





## MCKIM FAMILY

of our great country, and that they themselves are descended from ancestors who were "no mean citizens" in the days when our country was young.

And it should be of some interest to a younger generation to know how loyalty, heroism and industry were regarded and rewarded in the early days of our republic.

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